

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original) A therapeutic agent for periodontal diseases which comprises a neurotrophic factor as an active ingredient.

Claim 2 (Original) The therapeutic agent according to Claim 1 which regenerates the periodontal tissue.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) The therapeutic agent according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~ which regenerates the cementum.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended) The therapeutic agent according to ~~any one of Claims 1-3~~ Claim 1 which regenerates the periodontal ligament.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) The therapeutic agent according to ~~any one of Claims 1-4~~ Claim 1 which regenerates the alveolar bone.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended) The therapeutic agent according to ~~any one of Claims 1-5~~ Claim 1 which prevents the apical invasion of gingival epithelium along the dental root surface.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended) The therapeutic agent according to ~~any one of Claims 1-6~~ Claim 1 which regenerates the dental pulp.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended) The therapeutic agent according to ~~any one of Claims 1-7~~ Claim 1 which enhances the production of repaired dentin in the pulp cavity.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended) The therapeutic agent according to ~~any one of Claims 1-8~~ Claim 1, wherein the neurotrophic factor is a brain-derived neurotrophic factor, a nerve growth factor, neurotrophin-3, or neurotrophin-4/5.

Claim 10 (Original) A transplant for periodontal tissue regeneration which comprises a neurotrophic factor.

Claim 11 (Original) The transplant according to Claim 10 which is used to regenerate the cementum.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended) The transplant according to Claim 10 ~~or 11~~ which is used to regenerate the periodontal ligament.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended) The transplant according to ~~any one of Claims 10-12~~ Claim 10 which is used to regenerate the alveolar bone.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended) The transplant according to ~~any one of Claims 10-13~~ Claim 10 which is used to prevent the apical invasion of gingival epithelium along the dental root surface.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended) The transplant according to ~~any one of Claims 10-14~~ Claim 10 which is used to regenerate the dental pulp.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended) The transplant according to ~~any one of Claims 10-15~~ Claim 10 which is used to enhance the production of repaired dentin in the pulp cavity.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended) The transplant according to ~~any one of Claims 10-16~~ Claim 10 wherein the neurotrophic factor is a brain-derived neurotrophic factor, a nerve growth factor, neurotrophin-3, or neurotrophin-4/5.

Claim 18 (Original) A method for regenerating the periodontal tissue which comprises using a neurotrophic factor.

Claim 19 (Original) The regenerating method according to Claim 18 which regenerates the cementum.

Claim 20 (Original) The regenerating method according to Claim 18 which regenerates the periodontal ligament.

Claim 21 (Original) The regenerating method according to Claim 18 which regenerates the alveolar bone.

Claim 22 (Original) The regenerating method according to Claim 18 which prevents the apical invasion of gingival epithelium along the dental root surface.

Claim 23 (Original) The regenerating method according to Claim 18 which regenerates the dental pulp.

Claim 24 (Original) The regenerating method according to Claim 18 which enhances the production of repaired dentin in the pulp cavity.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended) The regenerating method according to ~~any one of Claims 18-24~~ Claim 18 wherein the neurotrophic factor is a brain-derived neurotrophic factor, a nerve growth factor, neurotrophin-3, or neurotrophin-4/5.

Claim 26 (Original) A repaired dentin morphogenesis enhancer which comprises a neurotrophic factor as an active ingredient.

Claim 27 (Original) The repaired dentin morphogenesis enhancer according to Claim 26 wherein the neurotrophic factor is a brain-derived neurotrophic factor, a nerve growth factor, neurotrophin-3, or neurotrophin-4/5.

Claim 28 (Original) A therapeutic method for pulpal disease which comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of a neurotrophic factor to a subject who is

suffering or prone to suffer from the disease in order to enhance the morphogenesis of repaired dentin.

Claim 29 (Original) The method according to Claim 28 wherein the neurotrophic factor is a brain-derived neurotrophic factor, a nerve growth factor, neurotrophin-3, or neurotrophin-4/5.